



American Legion Post 543  
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday September 25, 2019, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Community Center, Saint James, NC, 28461

1) Call to Order and Advance the Colors (Opening Ceremony): (Freeman)

- Per Agenda previously provided, the meeting was called to order at 7pm in the Town of St. James Community Center. (See Attachment #1)
- Colors were posted
- Our Post Chaplain offered the opening prayer
- The POW/MIA Empty Chair was formally recognized
- Pledge of Allegiance
- The Preamble to American Legion Constitution was recited by all

2) Roll Call of Officers: (Freeman)

- Officers Present:
  - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
  - Dan Bennett, Deputy Vice Commander Active Duty Support
  - Woody Dashiell, Adjutant
  - George Freeman, Commander
  - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
  - Bill Morgan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Resource Development
  - Steve Muir, Service Officer
  - Pom Pomeroy, Sergeant-at-Arms
  - Rick Sessa, Membership
- Officers Not Present:
  - Tom Balbert, Historian
  - Chuck Blackburn, Deputy Vice Commander Americanism
  - John Muuss, Public Relations Officer
  - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer

3) Welcoming Guests & Sick Call: (Freeman)

- Veterans attending for the first time were invited to stand and introduce themselves and share their Branch of Service.
- Prayers were requested for any Post members and their families in need.

4) Approval of Minutes: (Freeman)

- Minutes of the August 28, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

5) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 71.5% of the membership have renewed their membership toward the goal for 2019-2020.



## Sep 2019 Monthly Post Membership Report

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Jul 1 2019 – Jun 30 2020)	NUMBER TO DATE	2020 GOAL (Members)	VARIANCE (Members)
PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL)	12	204	61
MAIL IN / CASH RENEWALS / NEW MEMBERS	95		
ON-LINE RENEWALS	26		
<b>TOTAL PAID 2019-2020 MEMBERS TO DATE</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>61</b>
0 Members X-fered Into Post In 2019-2020 & Do NOT Count Toward Goal			



6) Finance Report: (Freeman)

- The monthly finance report showed that to date the Post has raised 78% of the budgeted projections. And expenses are at 8%. Budgeted expenditures are on track for the year. The Finance Report was approved without alteration.
- George praised the MAD golf tournament committee for outstanding work in raising \$5,000.00 more than last year.

7) Service Officer Report: (Muir)

- Steve reported on assistance provided to a veteran in Calabash with help from the Legion Posts in Calabash & Leland.
- Steve confirmed the poppy distribution will be Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at Lowes Home Improvement in two shifts from 0845-1200 hours and 1145-1500 hours. South Brunswick JROTC should be assisting.

8) Guest Speaker: Rick Saunders of Peacock, Newnan & White Funeral Services.

- George introduced Rick sharing that this is the second speaker in a 3-part series designed to help our members with life planning. He also emphasized that this was not an endorsement of any individual or company, instead the speakers in the series were selected for their life-long experience and recognition as experts in the fields they address.

- Rick spoke on life transition planning; Your life, your legacy, planning to make it right.
  - The information provided was universally applicable with members asking numerous questions throughout the presentation.

## 9) Recent and Coming Events



### Post 543 Recent & Coming Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
11 Sep 11 am	9/11 Memorial Day Observance	St. James Community Center (Speaker: Kirk Davis)	Bill Morgan
LAST CHANCE		dougelznic@aol.com	Doug Elznic
4 Oct 7am	Wounded Warrior Peer Fishing Event	Ocean Crest Pier, Oak Island	Dan Bennett
10 OCT 19 4:30-6:30pm	Letters From Home Concert	Woodlands Pavilion	Pom Pomeroy



This is a GREAT opportunity to enjoy the talented "Emmy-winning" performer Erinn Dearth and her sidekick Dan Beckmann as they bring us back to years gone by, with their USO type performance.

**FREE TO ALL POST MEMBERS & THEIR SPOUSES**



### Post 543 Recent & Coming Events (Con't)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
23 Oct 7pm	Monthly Membership Meeting Guest Speaker: Folds of Honor	St. James Community Center	George Freeman
Oct-Nov	Operation North State Christmas Boxes		Dan Bennett
9 Nov 9 am	Veterans' Day Parade	Wilmington, NC (Meet at St. James Community Center at 9am)	Doug Pratt
9 Nov 9am-3pm	Poppy Distribution	Lowe's Home Improvement	Steve Muir
9 Nov, 1 pm	Chili Cook Off	Moose Lodge, Oak Island	Doug Pratt
10 NOV 19 1:00-3:00pm	Legionnaire's Appreciation Celebration <b>FREE TO ALL POST MEMBERS &amp; THEIR SPOUSES</b>	Woodlands Pavilion	Pom Pomeroy
11 Nov, 11 am	Veterans' Day Observance	St. James Community Center (Outside)	Bill Morgan
11 Nov, 3-4 pm	Post Officers Visit	Carollion Assisted Living	Don Cunningham

10) Commanders Report (Freeman)

- Reported on the necessity to vet organizations and individuals that receive funds from the Post.
- Seeking an individual to teach the Marine class in the Spring to JROTC students at South Brunswick High School.
- George reported on efforts to work with Habitat for Humanity to identify veterans needing help.
- Post efforts continue to build a close working relationship with Troon as Troon seeks to further enhance its assistance to Veterans.

11) Committee Reports

- This month the Entertainment Committee was highlighted to share what they are doing in detail. Pom Pomeroy reported on entertainment, comradery, and other opportunities to provide appreciation for Post members.
  - "Letters From Home" Concert Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Legionnaire Appreciation Celebration Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - UNCW sporting events
  - Army-Navy Game on TV.
  - Golf Outing
  - MAD concert in May
  - Visit to the Battleship North Carolina
  - Cigar & Bourbon Night
  - Day Trip to Fort Bragg.
- Tom Bednarczyk shared that the Post will purchase Blue Star Flags and provide them free of charge to eligible families across the area served by the Post. A solicitation for names will be circulated with the goal of having the flags presented at the October General Membership meeting for display at individual homes throughout November.
- Mike Fegan reported on a program to recognize businesses that fly the American Flag. More information will be disseminated in the future by the District.

12) Closing Remarks, Ceremony & Adjournment (Freeman)

- The Post Newsletter will be in the mail soon.
- The Post selected Richard Burns as the candidate to compete at the State level for Emergency Medical Services Officer of the Year.
- The Post selected Chief Todd Coring as the candidate to compete at the State level for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

WOODY DASHIELL  
Adjutant

GEORGE R. FREEMAN  
Commander



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1. Call to Order and Advance The Colors (Opening Ceremony): (Freeman)
  - Posting of Colors
  - Post Chaplain opening prayer
  - POW/MIA Empty Chair recognition
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Preamble to American Legion Constitution reading
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
4. Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2019
5. Membership Report: Rick Sessa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Membership
6. Finance Report: George Freeman, Commander
7. Service Officer Report: Steve Muir, Service Officer
8. Guest Speaker: Rick Saunders of Peacock, Newnam, & White
9. Committee Reports Highlighting Active Duty Support
9. Coming Events and Commander's Report
10. Closing Ceremony: George Freeman, Post Commander
11. Adjournment and Fellowship

Next General Membership Meeting: October 23, 2019

ATCH #1